Recommendations of committee on Jute inudstry

6589. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Committee set up on Jute Industry Sector a few year ago has submitted its reports;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government had set up a High Powered Committee to study the current developments in the jute sector and recommend strategies and policy measures to increase modernisation, diversification and exports. The Committee submitted its report to Government on 11th November, 1992. The thrust of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee is that the future of the jute sector lies in the recognition of the full potential of jute as a fibre in diversified and applications. Technical advances and price factors render it impossible for the jute economy to sustain its existence on the production of packaging materials alone. It is, therefore, imperative for the jute sector to undertake restructuring and diversification in the interests of the jute growing farmers, mill workers and others associated with this fibre.

Action has already been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

Silk production in Tamil Nadu

6590. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the twin projects of Manual Silk Reeling and Cottage Resins and Multi and Silk Reeling Machinery sponsored by International Development Research Centre, Canada, has been successfully implemented in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government would take steps to extend the scheme to Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase Silk Prtoduction in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has reported that the twin projects of Manual Silk Reeling and Cottage Basin & Multiend Silk Reeling Machinery sponsored by the International Development Research Centre, Canada have been implemented in Karnataka by the Asian Institute for Rural Development (AIRD), Bangalore (a registered public charitable trust) during the period from 1990 to 1993 at a total cost of Rs. 11.25 lakhs.

Encouraged by the results of the projects in Karnataka, the AIRD has reportedly conducted survey in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra and is taking steps to conduct silk reeling trials in these States for transfer of technology.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government of Tamil Nadu to increase the silk production, the Central Silk Board has established a network of its units in the State for providing necessary R&D, Extension, Training and Infrastructural support etc. Besides, a World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project is also being implemented in the State.